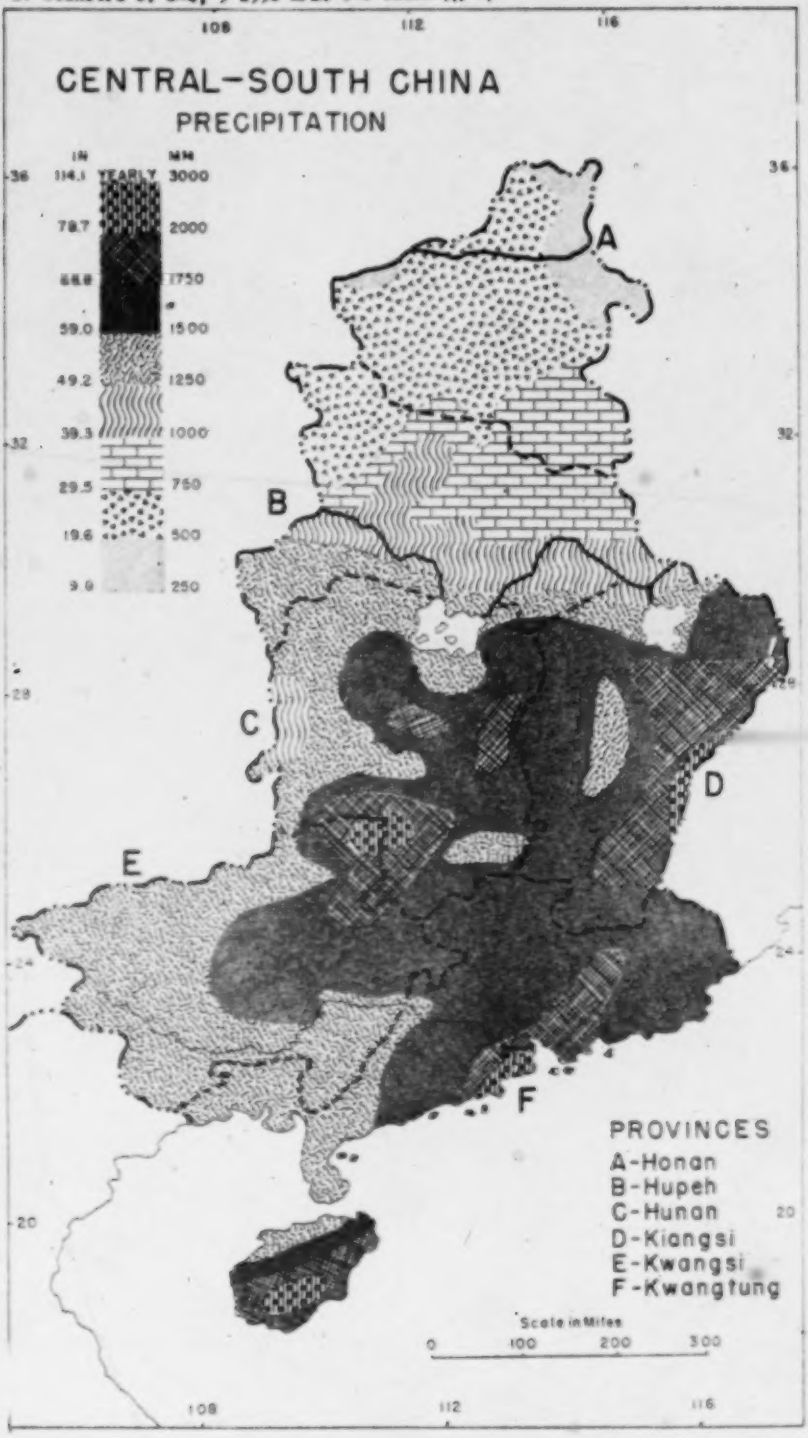
1: Stanford U. S-4, S 1956 AF14 Central China AF14



[facing p. 1 (c)]

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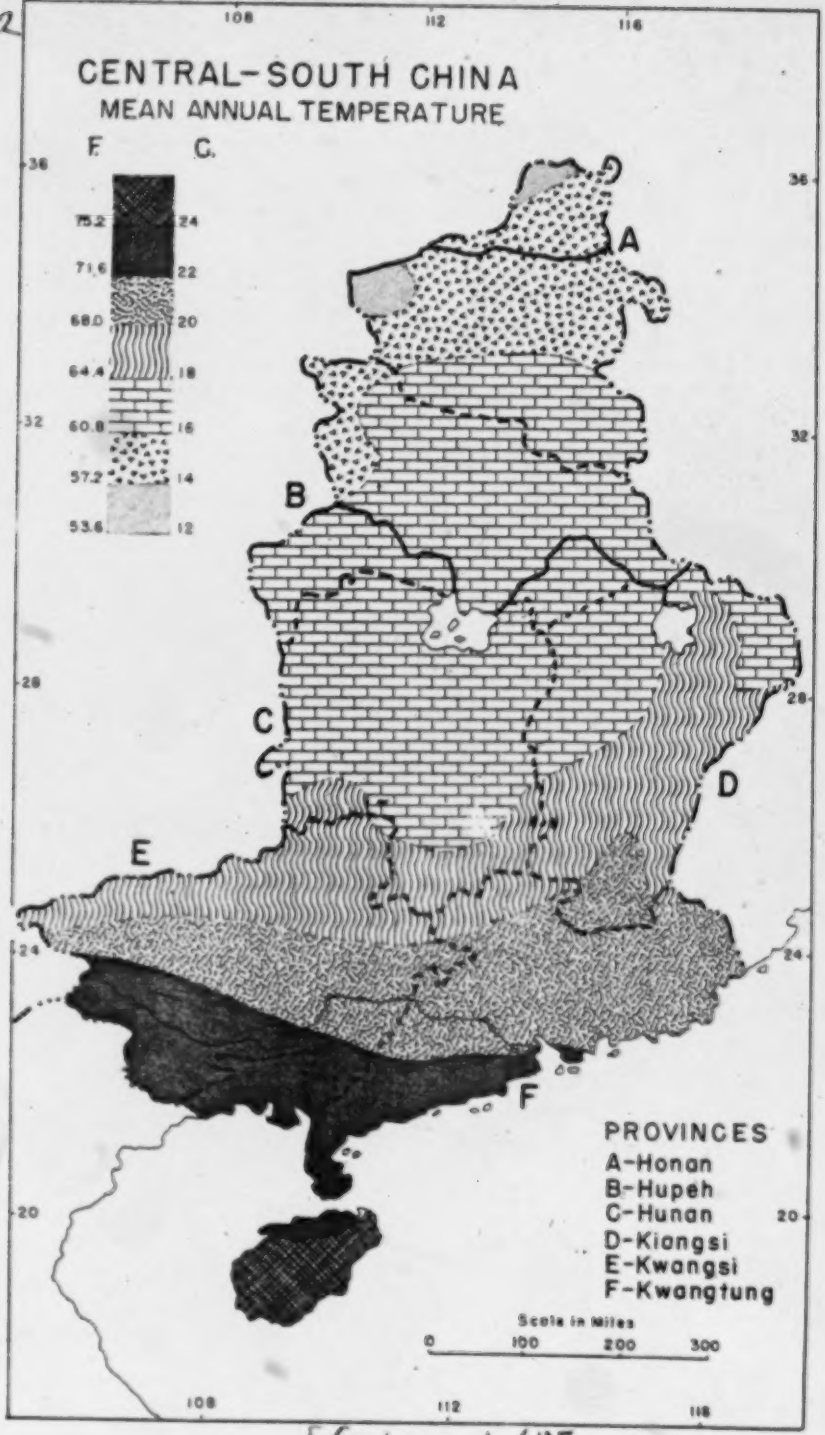

[facing p. 1 (d)]

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tion is to fall. Although this treaty does not help to clarify the situation, the Peking regime continues to insist on its rights to the islands on the basis of their historic affiliation with China, dating back some four hundred years to the Ming Dynasty. Some proponents of this claim go so far as to cite the records of the Sung Dynasty (A. D. 960-1279) to support their argument.[14]

II. CLIMATE

The climate of this region is more affected by its topographical features than by its latitude. The latitude is a major weather determinant only at the northernmost and southernmost ends.

In the summertime the Fu-niu Mountain area in the northwest is pleasantly cool, but in the heart of the eastern Honan plain the mercury rises to an average of 29°C. (84° F.), or higher. The bulk of the average annual precipitation of 500-800 millimeters (16-32 in.) falls in July-August. In western Hupeh Province the average summer temperature on the mountains holds at 25° C. (78°F.) level. In summer high humidity and sultry heat are common in the lowland area along the Yangtze and Han rivers; of an average annual rainfall of 1,200 millimeters (48 in.), over 400 millimeters (16.5 in.) is measured in June alone. In late spring the Mei rain, or "plum rain," drenches Hupeh Province. The Hsüeh-feng (Snow Summit) Mountain in western Hunan is not a cold area despite its chilly name. On the east side of Hunan Province the climate resembles that of Central China or the Yangtze Valley; the maximum rain-

14. Ibid., p. 10.

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fall of an annual average of over 750 millimeters (29 in.) occurs in April-June.[15] Temperatures reach 29°C. (86°F.) in the warm belt of the Nan-ling Mountains. Even on the northern approach to the mountains, the summer season is of reasonable duration. Kwangtung and Kwangsi, on the south side of the Nan-ling Mountains, are the warmest provinces in China and have a tropical climate. Long summers have an average temperature of 29°C. (86°F.) and about one-half of an average annual rainfall of 1,500-2,000 millimeters (58-77 in.) occurs in July-August. The warm climatic zone includes Hainan Island, where temperatures sometimes reach 33.9°C (92°F.),[16] and the humidity is higher than that of the lake areas 1,000 kilometers (600 mi.) to the north. On Hainan it rains about 1,500 millimeters (58 in.) a year.

In the wintertime the upper reaches of the Hwai and Yellow rivers may freeze for about two weeks and a month, respectively. In Honan Province the month of November is miserable because of the zero temperature and the biting wind, which usually carries a large amount of yellow dust and sand. The local people call it "Blow Yellow Sand." In Hupeh Province, winter temperatures may drop as low as -3°C (27°F), but in the warm belt farther south the mercury seldom drops below 10°C. (50°F.). On Hainan Island, winter is cool and dry, and November to March is considered a most pleasant season.

Nature harasses Honan Province with an unpre-

15. Cressey, op. cit., p. 72.
16. Ch'en Chih, op. cit., p. 25.

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Table 3. Climate at Selected Localities */

	Mean Temperature (F)		Rainfall (inches)	
	January	July	Annual Average	Rainy Season
Kaifeng (on Honan Plain)	30	84	24	July - August
I-ch'ang (Western Hupeh)	42	84	48	July
Hankow (on Yangtze River)	40	85	50	June
Changsha (Central Hunan)	43	90	55	May - June
Chiu-chiang (Northern Kiangsi)	41	86	57	June
Canton (Southern Kwangtung)	55	81	66	May - August
Nanning (Central-South Kwangsi)	58	86	62	June - August

*/ Based on Cressey, op.cit.; Ko Sui-ch'eng, Chung-kuo Ti-li Hsin-chih [New Geography of China], Shanghai, Chung-hua shu-chü, 1940.

[Table 3 follows p. 9]

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dictable rainfall in the winter, which in turn annually 132
threatens the inhabitants with the possibility of drought. Along the coast of Kwangtung, typhoons from time to time descend upon that area with all their tropical fury They come on the average of 8. 5 times a year, usually in May, but no part of the year is completely free from the threat. [17]

III. SOIL AND VEGETATION

Northern Honan Province lies on the fringe of the 134
North China plain, which is covered with a layer of alluvial soil. In colors ranging from light yellow to dark brown, the soil varies from saline to calcareous. South of Kaifeng in Honnan Province the land lies under sandy loam which is most non-calcareous. Farther south in Hupeh Province there are belts of non-calcareous alluvial soil, brown clay, and dark grey soil with varying acid content. Hunan, Kwangsi, and Kwangtung provinces are extensively covered with red and dark red soil of various ages. In these provinces, spotty patches of light and dark grey soil are also found. In the Pearl and Hsi river valleys the soil is mainly alluvial and non-calcareous. The same soil is found along the shores of Hainan Island. In the middle of Hainan Island, red soil predominates, with dark grey soil at higher elevations.

Coniferous forests are common in central and south 137
ern Honan. Tropical forests occupy most of the low hills and river valleys. In Hunan and Hupeh provinces, coniferous and evergreen plants grow on higher mountains. Kwangtung has a rich variety of tropical and semi-tropical plants, and throughout the province fruits are extensively cultivated in addition to the staple crop of rice. Tropical plants such as sugar-cane and cinnamon are found also in southern Kwangsi and on

17. Cressey, op. cit., p. 67.